

REMARKS

The following remarks are responsive to the Office Action of March 21, 2007.

At the time of the Office Action, claims 1-17 were pending. Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0030744 to Sawachi in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,587,140 to No.

In the instant amendment, claims 2, 4, 11 and 13 are canceled, and claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 10 and 15-17 are amended. In particular, claim 1 is amended to include the language of claims 2 and 4, and claim 10 is amended to include the language of claims 11 and 13. In all of the pending claims, the term “portable phone” replaces “portable digital device” to more distinctly and particularly recite the Applicants’ camera and system. The Applicants submit that the amendments are fully supported by the specification (see, for example, FIGS. 1-6 and page 3, line 27 which states “a portable digital device PD, for example, a portable phone,”) and introduce no new matter. Accordingly, entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested

Sawachi describes a portable multi-function apparatus that can operate in a camera operation mode and an audio operation mode. In the Office Action, various elements of the main body 11 of Sawachi’s apparatus 10 are analogized to the recited elements of the Applicants’ camera and system. Furthermore, the Office Action goes on to analogize the controller 13 of Sawachi as the Applicants’ portable digital device. Although the Office Action analogizes Sawachi’s controller 13 as a portable digital device, Sawachi does not disclose, teach, suggest or contemplate that the controller 13 may be a portable phone as is now recited in the claims of the present application. To this end, the Applicants submit that claims 1 and 10 as amended distinguish over Sawachi.

With regard to the combination of Sawachi and No, the Applicants submit that No cannot cure Sawachi’s lack of a portable phone even if the teachings of these references could be combined because No does not disclose, teach, suggest or contemplate a portable phone that interfaces with the camera. Instead, No describes a system including a camera, a printer and a “shared PC intelligence card 7 which is detachably connectable to either the camera 3 or the printer 5.” (col. 2, lines 55-57 of No) According to FIG. 3 that illustrates the shared PC intelligence card 7, and the corresponding description thereof (see, cols. 5 and 6),

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the Applicants submit that No's card 7 is not a portable phone and could not be considered to be a portable phone.

Even if, for argument's sake, the controller 13 of Sawachi could be considered to be a portable phone, the Applicants submit that Sawachi's communication I/F section 80 (which the Office Action analogized as the Applicants' recited communication interface for a portable digital device) does not interface the controller 13 with the main body 11. As described in paragraph 0057 of Sawachi, the communication I/F section 80 exchanges data with an external device, not with the controller 13. To further support the Applicants' position, the Applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to FIG. 1 of Sawachi that shows a double-headed arrow (unlabeled) between blocks 70 and 74 that connects the "MAIN BUS" 82 of the main body 11 to the "CPU OF CONTROLLER" 63 of the controller 13. In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants submit that independent claims 1 and 10 as amended distinguish over the cited art of record and are allowable. Furthermore, claims 3, 5-9, 12 and 14-17 that depend directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 10 are allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If any formal or substantive issues remain, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION OF MARCH 21, 2007 (along with any documents referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Date: June 18, 2007



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